Recommendations of Alagh Committee

570. SHRI NAMDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the recommendations of the Alagh Committee, set up by Government to examine the methodological issues relating to fixing of Minimum Support Prices of agricultural produce; and

(b) the details of the recommendations accepted/rejected by Government, indicating the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The recommendations are under consideration.

Closure of Marine Aquarium and Research Centre, Vizhinjam

571. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending to close down the Marine Aquarium and Research Centre functioning at Vizhinjam in Kerala and if so, the reasons for its closure;

(b) whether Government had proposed to transfer these centres to other neighbouring States from that State; and

(c) whether Government would consider to put off the decision to wind up this institution, and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Expenditure Finance Committee while considering the X Five Year Plan proposal of the Institute, in its meeting held on 20.06.2003 at ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi, decided to shift / merge the Vizhinjam Research Centre of CMFRI to Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI with a view to consolidate the ongoing programmes more effectively, since Mandapam Regional Centre is proposed to be developed as a major Mariculture and Marine biodiversity Centre. The other reasons for such decision of shifting /merger of the Centre are present research relevance, proper utilization of scientists and associated manpower, avoidance of duplication of research efforts and strengthening of identified centers for strategic and applied research.